リカチ
The Ice Queen
Rikachi Presents
氷の女王
1
Kodansha Comics
BETSUFURE

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KC BETSUFURE
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（税別）

シャイで何もとりえがない主人公・ニカは
ある日、同じクラスの地味メン・七緒が
フィギュアスケートの練習を
しているかっこいい姿を目撃する。
自分も真似して滑ってみると、
楽しくて何だか自分が
自分じゃないみたい！
それを偶然彼に見られ、
「センスがあるね」と
ほめられて――!?

リカチ
Rikachi Presents

中高校生を久しぶりに描いた気がします。
主人公を決めかねて2人描いてしまいました。
ほんとは3人候補がいたなんて言えないw

リカチシリーズ
Rikachi Presents

［ 氷の女王 ］①～〈以下続刊〉

［ 明治緋色綺譚 ］①～〈以下続刊〉

［ 王様とわたし リカチ短編集 ］

大好評発売中！

カバーデザイン 佐藤千恵+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

氷の女王

1

リカチ

The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

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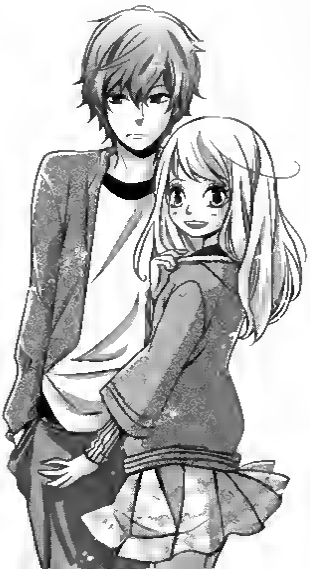
STEP 1
Nika Takes
her First Step
Forward



IN AN INSTANT,
MY FACE IS RED WITH STAGE FRIGHT.
THE WORDS GET CAUGHT IN MY THROAT
AND MY VOICE DRIBBLES OUT OF MY MOUTH
I-
I d-don't kn-know!
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THE ANSWER, IT ENDS UP LIKE THIS
YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST. THEN NEXT IS—
OH!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WANTED TO LIVE A NORMAL (INCONSPICU-OUS LIFE

OH NO!
LET'S SEE, NEXT IS NANAO
NANAO!
NANAO!!
OH, YES
SHH!

UH...
I WASN'T LISTEN-ING.
UH, UM...
WHAT?! STAND THERE AS YOU ARE.
UH-OH...
MY ERASER

NANAO,
YOU ENDED UP STANDING FOR THE REST OF CLASS
YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING DIRTY UNTIL THE WEE HOURS OF THE NIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SLEEP TOO MUCH IN CLASS, DUDE
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
MY NOTEBOOK USED TO BE SO NEAT
MY ERASER
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN
NANAO'S SUCH A WIMP
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE AN AVERAGE-LOOKING GUY!
IT'S HARD TO SPEAK
DURING THESE SITUATIONS!

BECAUSE IT'S HARD FOR ME TO TALK, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS TO GO HOME WITH.
DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING ON THE WAY HOME?
WELL THEN, LET'S GO TO OUR CLUB MEETINGS
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY
LET'S GO!
..UH
WE'LL JUST WINDOW SHOP
I'M GOING HOME
I'M ALONE...
NANAO IS ALSO ALONE...
OH...
I SHOULD GET MY ERASER BACK.

HURRY.
IT'S ONLY ONE ERASER. WHY AM I GOING SO FAR FOR IT?!
HURRY...
I HAVE TO HURRY AND TALK TO HIM
HUH?
UM...
OH.

AN ICE SKATING RINK?!
SKATE CENTER
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT, BUYING ANOTHER ERASER WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER...
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE HERE...
OR RATHER NANAO'S NOT HERE...
I GUESS MY EYES WERE FOOLING ME... I'M GOING HOME
SCHLICK!
How silly of me...

FIGURE SKATING?
I WONDER IF HE'S A TEAM MEMBER?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT...

OH...

NANAO?!

THAT GUY EVERYONE CALLS AVERAGE AND LAME
AND WHO SEEMS OUT OF IT IN CLASS!?
WHISH!
CROUCH!
WHAT?!
COULD I BE MISTAKEN?
THE ANGLE I USUALLY SEE FROM MY CHAIR!
He looks the same...
BUT HE'S NOT WEARING GLASSES, SO
MAYBE HE'S NOT.

SCHLICK!
SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS... HE'S BEEN SKATING...

HEY! NANAO, DON'T SLEEP IN CLASS!
BONK!
UGH.
NOD
NOD
I WONDER IF THAT REALLY IS THE SAME PERSON.
MAYBE... HE HAS A TWIN...
TEACHER, HE'S SLEEPING AGAIN
LEAVE HIM ALONE.

I WONDER IF HE'S HERE
I'M CURIOUS, SO I CAME AGAIN
HE'S HERE!
HE LEFT AS SOON AS SCHOOL LET OUT

SLISH
AAH, HIS EXPRESSION...

HE LOOKS SO CONTENTED...
Figure Skating Guide
FIGURE SKATING
TMP

I SHOULD GET MORE FLEXIBLE AND DO WEIGHT TRAINING
because my body is too weak
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Here's your laundry
Aha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
AAH, NO, NO, NO, I'M NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO SKATE!
BUT, BUT, I'VE GIVEN A LITTLE BIT OF THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I WOULD SKATE...
NANAO!!
TURN IN THE NOTE-BOOK!
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL GET SCOLDED!!
...BUT IT'S NOT MY TURN.
DO IT.

I KNOW
Oh! My bad!
BONK!
HUH? I WOULDN'T KNOW THAT SINCE HE'S ALWAYS ASLEEP!!
BUT NANAO SUDDENLY GOT TALLER RECENTLY!
Puberty, right?!
HIM BEING THE ONE WHO NEVER GETS AGITATED MAKES ME THE HOT HEAD!
HE DOESN'T DO WHAT I SAY EVEN THOUGH HE'S A SHRIMP!
NANAO PISSES ME OFF!
HOW NANAO TRULY IS.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN HIM ON THE ICE.

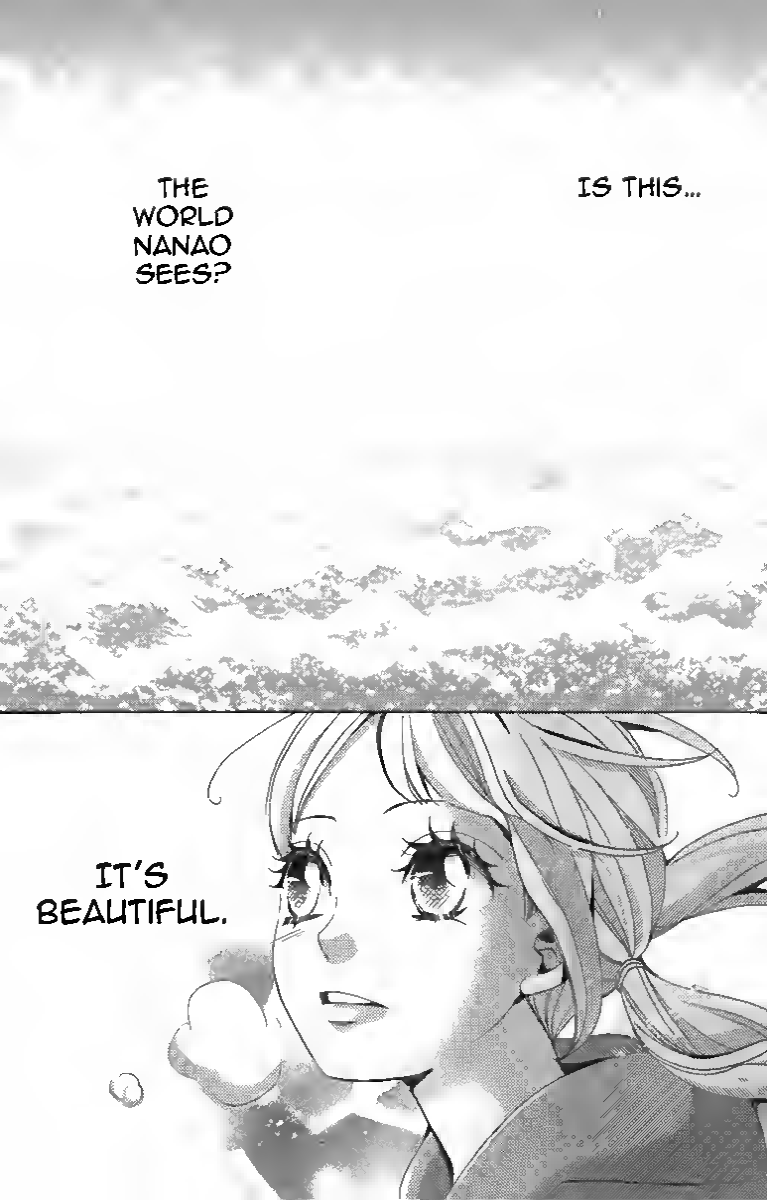
OH... HE'S NOT HERE TODAY... IS HE?
OR... HE HASN'T ARRIVED YET MAYBE?
DAYDREAMY...
THERE ARE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HERE...
I BET IT'S BECAUSE IT'S SAT-URDAY...
SKATE RENTAL
I MIGHT AS WELL SINCE I PUT ON THESE SHORTS!
.....
SHE CAN SKATE QUITE WELL...
A KID THAT YOUNG IS... SKATING!

I STUDIED THE BASICS IN A BOOK!
I TRAINED BY IMAGINING MYSELF SKATING WELL
I WONDER IF I'LL FALL DOWN. WILL I BE OKAY...?
I'M FINE I'M FINE
I just need like this, I think
OH!
SLI
SH!
I
WH
CAN'T SKATE!!
UMP!

OWW...
PLUS, I EMBARRASSED MYSELF!
HUH..? NOBODY NOTICED..?
MAYBE PEOPLE FALL DOWN ALL THE TIME
BAL-ANCE SLOWLY
I'M GOING TO CALM DOWN
SLIDE

AAH,
I SEEM TO BE MOVING.
I'M TURNING.
THE AIR IS COOL...
BUT I'M NOT COLD...
IMAGINE
NANAO'S SKATING

THE WHIRLING SCENERY IS FLYING BY
SO I CAN
GLIDE SMOOTHER
THE COLD AIR FEELS NICE...
THE SILVERY FLOOR SPREADS OUT BENEATH MY FEET


IS THIS...
THE WORLD NANAO SEES?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

I MIGHT AS WELL
LET MY IMAGINATION CARRY ME AWAY.
THE ARE PEOPLE LIVING IN A FOREST,
THE WALLS ARE BUILDINGS,
IN A WORLD OF ICE
WITH THAT AS MY TEMPLATE, I'LL IMAGINE
AND LIKE NANAO,
I'LL BE JUST LIKE AN ICE QUEEN.

LIKE A SNOWSTORM.
I'LL WHIRL
HIGH AND FAR,
SLISH!

THERE'S NO JUMPING ALLOWED SATURDAY
OH!! I'M SORRY!!
OWW!!!
I MESSED UP!!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED!!
EMBARR...?
HUH...?
ACTUALLY,
I'M NOT ALL THAT EMBARRASSED... I THINK

I WONDER WHAT
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
IT'S LIKE I SET MYSELF FREE COMPLETELY
I WANT
I'M FEELING RATHER THAN EMBARRASSMENT REGARDLESS, I'M HOT
THE WORLD IN FRONT OF ME IS BRIGHT,
AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE MYSELF
TO SKATE MORE

HUH?
NANAO IS TALKING TO ME!!
I ASKED, DO YOU ICE SKATE?
HUH?
I SAW YOU AT THE RINK ON SATURDAY
OH,
UH, UH, UH!
I'M N-N-N-N-NOT!!!
HE SAW THAT?!!!

I SEE. SO SOMETIMES?
I'M GONNA GET LAUGHED AT!!
FR-FR-FROM T-T-TIME TO TIME...
OH NO! MY VOICE IS DRIBBLING OUT!
MY THROAT IS OVER-STUFFED WITH WORDS!!!
OH, I GOT A NORMAL REPLY!
YOUR FIRST TIME?!
IT WAS MY F-F-FIRST TIME!
YOU WERE QUITE GOOD, SO I THOUGHT YOU SKATED.
OH! OUR EYES MET!!

TOO CLOSE!
TOO CLOSE!
TOO CLOSE!
YOU HAVE SKATING SENSE. YOU SHOULD SKATE.

WHAT POINT AM I TRYING TO MAKE?!
Uh!! I s-saw you a f-few times!!
YEAH
HE SAID I SHOULD SKATE?!
HE SMILED!!!
HE PRAISED ME!
I HAVE TO SAY S-SOME-THING!!!
YEAH
I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE!!!
Sk-skating is fun, isn't it?
MY VOICE DRIBBLED OUT~~
UH, UH, UM,
YOU SKATE TOO, RIGHT?
I LOVE SKATING.
PRACTICE IS QUITE RIGOROUS, SO IT'S NOT JUST ALL FUN, BUT
YEAH.

OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

EXTENDING BOTH HANDS
A CAREFREE SPIRAL
A JOYFUL RHYTHMIC STEP
I'M HAPPY.
INTO AN EMBRACE
A SPIN FULL OF MY FEELINGS OF KINSHIP!!

I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO ICE SKATE... BUT IT'S HARD TO SAY THE WORDS...
IT'S A SPORT THAT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY...
HOW SHOULD I DO THIS?
It's Japan's National Figure Skating Male Junior Grand Prix Champion Akira Nanao's dazzling performance
At the tender age of 14, he is Japan's male figure skating rising star.
As though loved by the Ice Queen herself, it's a beautiful performance, isn't it?!

IT'S NANAO!!!

Wasn't you?!
You were amazing!
You were so cool!
Squee
Squee
Squee
IT'S A COMPLETE REVERSAL FROM BEFORE TODAY
I'M NO LONGER THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT NANAO.
YOU GIRLS ARE ANNOYING!
P!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
YOU'RE LIKE THOSE RELATIVES WHO COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK AS SOON AS SOMEONE'S ON TV
WHAT'S WITH YOU GIRLS?
CLATTER
I WILL NOT TALK TO ANYONE EXCEPT THOSE WHO CAN DO THE TRIPLE AXEL.
Huh?!
What did he say?!
What a high bar!

WH-?! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? WHAT WAS THAT?
BUT WE WERE ONLY TALKING TO HIM!
HE'S PUTTING US DOWN!
WE'RE NOT GONNA CHEER FOR HIM!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
SLAM
I...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE!!
SUDDENLY BEING PUT ON THE SPOT WOULD MAKE ANYONE DO THAT!
BECAUSE!
He wasn't being mean! Cheer for him...

KURUSU SPOKE..
WELL, I GUESS MY TEMPER GOT THE BETTER OF ME. BUT I'M NOT IN THE WRONG
AH, MAYBE WE DID ANNOY HIM.
SKATE CENTER

AHH...
I'M CURIOUS, SO WITHOUT THINKING, MY LEGS CARRIED ME HERE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS HERE. I BET THEY'RE AFTER NANAO...
SOMEHOW...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GONE TO A DIFFERENT WORLD.
KURUSU.

DID HE JUST CALL MY NAME?! OR RATHER, IS HE TALKING TO ME NORMALLY?!
NANAO!!
YOU CAME TO SKATE.
uh,
I'M FLOUNDERING AGAIN!!!
Eh!
Well,
um, um,
I WILL NOT TALK TO ANYONE EXCEPT THOSE WHO CAN DO THE TRIPLE AXEL
Tr-
tr-
triple!
WHAT AM I SAYING ?!!!

OH, YES,
E RENTAL
AREN'T YOU WORKING TOWARDS BEING ABLE TO JUMP? I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
TH.. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT..
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WATCHING, BUT THE CROWD IS THINNING OUT ON THE ICE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY JUMPING?

I GET STAGE FRIGHT, MY FACE TURNS RED,
WORDS GET CAUGHT IN MY THROAT, AND MY VOICE DRIBBLES OUT OF MY MOUTH.
CAN SOMEONE LIKE ME DO THIS?

I BECOME A DIFFER-ENT ME.
IT'S STRANGE... WHEN I'M ON THE ICE, I CALM DOWN.

NANAO,
UH! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR UNIFORM?!
I WONDER IF I CAN BE LIKE NANAO SOMEDAY
OH... COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER GOT HIM TO RETURN MY ERASER...
BUT RIGHT NOW...

AS THOUGH BEING PUSHED FORWARD
BY THE ICE QUEEN WHO INHABITS THE RINK,
I'LL TELL YOU THE WORDS THAT FILL MY HEART.
I THINK I LIKE YOU, NANAO.

End of Chapter 1

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The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

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1

Kodansha Comics

BETSUFURE

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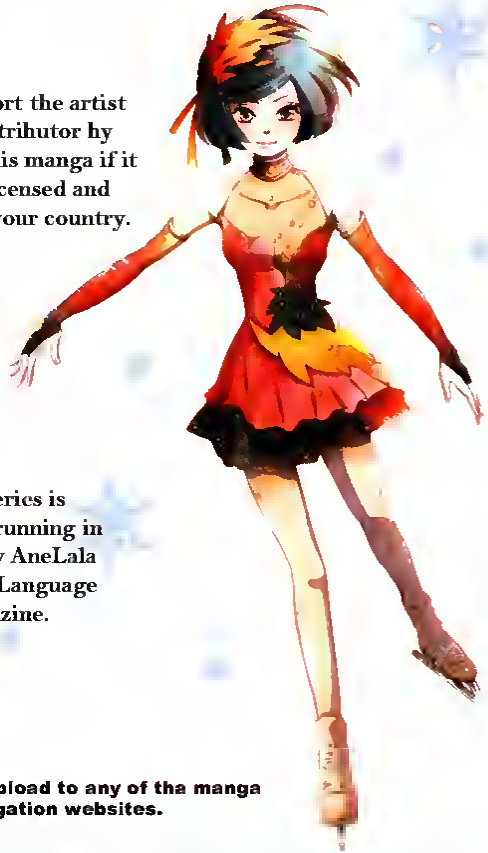


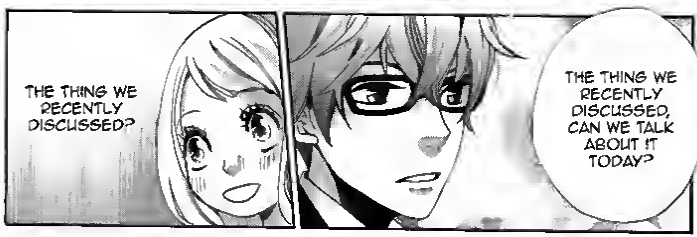
This series is currently running in himonthly AneLala Japanese Language magazine.

Plaase do not upload to any of tha manga aggregation websites.

STEP 2
Nika's Dream
I LIKE YOU.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MY FIRST LOVE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I CONFESSED TO A PERSON I LIKE.
BLUSHING, AND WITH WORDS DRIBBLING FROM MY MOUTH, I THOUGHT MY CONFESSION WENT WELL, BUT
AS OF NOW, I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND
LOVE ALL THAT WELL

When I-I'm reborn, I want to become a gorgeous woman.
HUH? WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT SO SUDDENLY?
YOSHIDA SAID HE LIKES MIKI THE ACTRESS
OH...
I DON'T WANT TO BE A HUMAN AGAIN
I WANT TO BE A BIRD
That could be a poem!
Ah ha ha!
CHATTER
.....
AH, HEY,
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KURUSU?
Huh?
Um,
well,
I...
EVEN THOUGH HE FRANKLY AND CLEARLY REJECTED ME, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S UNAFFECTED

I don't want to be myself. I want to become a different self.
STEP 2
Nika's Dream



"Koori no Joou" ("The Ice Queen") Volumes 1 & 2 are available for purchase in Japanese. Here are the ISBNs to search online bookstores:

Volume 1: 978-4063418965
Volume 2: 978-4063418965

If you enjoy this series, please ask your country's manga publisher to licence "Koori no Joou". If you are in the US, please make the request to Kodansha USA.

AFTER I CONFESSED
MORE IMPORTANTLY—
Uhh!
HE TALKED ABOUT A BUNCH OF THINGS, BUT
BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK OF REJECTION, I DIDN'T HEAR A WORD HE SAID
SO,
IS IT OKAY?
UH... SURE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID, BUT FOR NOW I'LL JUST AGREE
DOESN'T NANAO FEEL AWKWARD TALKING TO A GIRL HE REJECTED?!
THEN
TODAY, LET'S LEAVE TOGETHER
AH, MAYBE
THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED BEING "FRIEND-ZONED".
A SKATING FRIEND
IT HURTS

She's so pretty!
Uh,
Uh...
It's nice to meet y-you!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU I'M AKIRA'S OLDER SISTER KAGURA NANAO
SO YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT AKIRA'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT
BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
LET'S SEE! HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SKATING?!
Huh?
Skating?
Um..!
SKATE HOWEVER YOU LIKE
I RESERVED THE RINK

SKATE HOWEVER YOU LIKE!
Uhh
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD TO SKATE HOWEVER I LIKE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHY AM I HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF TEST?

I'M A BEGINNER
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE BASICS
KURUSU! LIKE THE FIRST TIME YOU SKATED!
THE FIRST TIME?
DOES HE MEAN WHEN I IMAGINED SKATING LIKE HIM..?

I TOLD YOU SO
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A BE-GINNER, SHE'S INTERESTING

HUH?! WHAT?! WHY THE SCARY FACE?!!
DOOM!
I'M TIRED!
YOU HAVE NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH STAMINA!
YOU'RE STAGGERING! YOU CAN'T LIFT YOUR LEGS ANYMORE!
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT SKATING IS TOO MUCH LIKE AKIRA'S!
THAT'S NOT WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING!
BUT
I'm sorry!!
Wah! Wah! Wah!

YOU HAVE SENSE!
CLASP!
SHE'S GIVING ME TONS OF PRAISE!!
A BEGINNER WHO CAN SKATE LIKE AN EXPERIENCED SKATER, THAT'S AMAZING!
YOU DEFINITELY HAVE GOOD BALANCE
AND A GOOD MEMORY
REPRODUC-ING WHAT YOU SAW
MEANS YOUR LATENT PHYSICAL ABILITY IS HIGH
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A PRODIGY!
SO--

WE'LL AIM TOWARD BEING THE QUEEN OF THE ICE RINK TOGETHER!
Huh?!
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THE PUSHI-NESS
WHEN I TOLD KAGURA ABOUT YOU, SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO MEET YOU
HE TALKED ABOUT ME?
A GIRL CONFESSED TO ME
WOW! I'D LIKE TO MEET HER!
WAS IT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

KAGURA INJURED HER RIGHT KNEE AND CAN'T COMPETE ANYMORE…
OH?!
SHE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT A YEAR BEFORE LAST…
SHE STILL WON MEDALS AFTER, BUT…
SHE DIDN'T LEAVE HER ROOM FOR A WHILE
WHEN SHE FINALLY EMERGED
I'M GOING TO BECOME A COACH
SEEING THE PEOPLE THAT I COACH WIN
IS HOW I'LL CONTINUE MY DREAM
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS SAYING MEAN THINGS TO YOU
THE COST OF A COACH IS NOT TRIVIAL
AT ANY RATE, A SKILLED COACH IS NECESSARY
—— IS WHAT SHE SAID…

I'M GLAD MY SISTER CAME WITH ME
YEAH

This training regimen is too rigorous!!!
FIRST YOU HAVE TO INCREASE YOUR STAMINA!
KURUSU, YOUR FACE LOOKS PALE.
BUT I'M NOT FINE AT ALL!!!
Oh. I'm fine.
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN 3 MONTHS.
...THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, BUT...
Can I survive
like this for 3 months ?!

IT'S HUGE!!!
HERE'S MY HOUSE.
BUT..
OH, DID YOU BRING A FRIEND?
SHE'S A CLASS-MATE AND KAGURA'S CLIENT
IF YOU'RE HERE FOR KAGURA, SHE JUST LEPT TO GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE
SHE'LL BE BACK SHORTLY
FOR NOW, TAKE HER TO YOUR ROOM, AKIRA.
His mother?
My room?!
THEN I HAVE TO TIDY IT UP A BIT
WOW!
THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY PERKS!!!

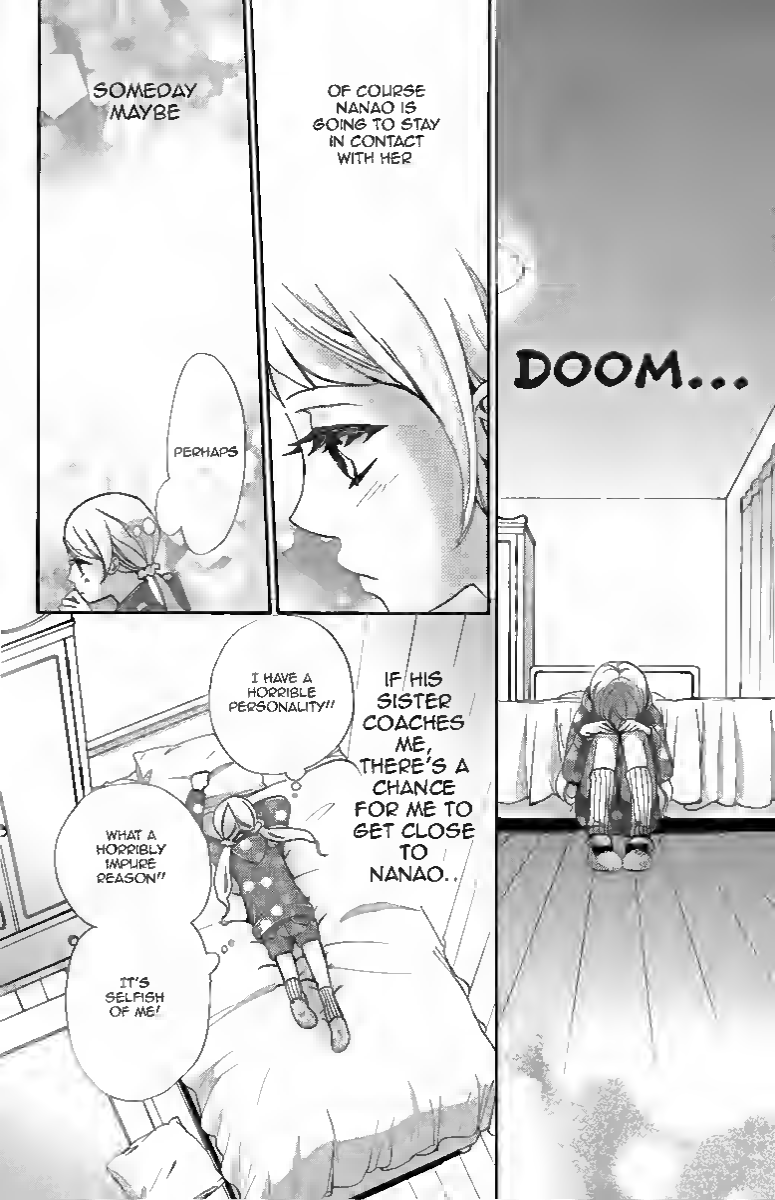
A BOY'S ROOM!!
YOU CAN HAVE A SEAT ANYWHERE YOU LIKE
GLANCE
WOW!
GLANCE
IT'S BIG
I don't know where to sit!!
AND
STARING WOULD BE CREEPY...
OH,
IS TH-THIS A PHOTO FROM THE RECENT COMPETITION?
WOW!

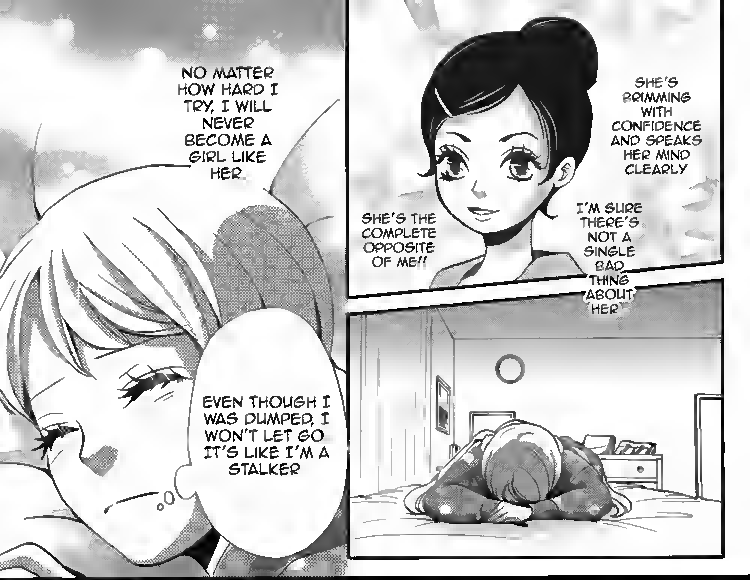
I'M BACK! IS NIKA HERE?!
YOU CALLED HER OVER.
NIKA! LET'S GO OVER HERE!
Ah... yes!
HE FLIPPED THE PHOTO UPSIDE DOWN.
HERE, HERE
DVD NATIONAL COMPETITION COMPILATION

I THOUGHT THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO IS SHOW YOU SOME FEMALE SKATING PERFORMANCES!
THAT WAY YOU CAN GET AN IMAGE OF FEMALE SKATING
IF YOU CAN IMITATE THIS FIRST ONE, THAT WOULD BE AMAZING
PAAH!
WOW
HOW DELICATE AND PRETTY
THE HAND MOVEMENTS
AND LEG POSITIONS
ARE FLUID.
STUDY THIS AND REMEMBER HOW IT LOOKS

YOU HAVE A DISCERNING EYE!
YOU RECOGNIZED IT, DIDN'T YOU?
THIS YEAR, SHE'S EXPECTED TO SWEEP THE TOURNAMENT
AHH!
THE GIRL FROM THE PHOTO!!
SHE'S THE SAME AGE AS AKIRA AND YOU
HER JUMPING AND SPINNING TECHNIQUE ARE TOP-NOTCH TO SAY THE LEAST
SHE'S THE GENIUS FEMALE SKATER WHO CAN DO QUAD JUMPS

SHE'S ALWAYS OVERFLOWING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE
AND SPEAKS LIKE A NO-NONSENSE TINY QUEEN
OF COURSE I WILL JUMP.
I DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE BUT TOTAL VICTORY
BEEP
BEEP
YOU SEE.
AMAZ-ING.
AND HER ABILITY TO COMPLETE IS AMAZING
WHEN SHE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHE WAS IN THE SAME SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND AKIRA HAD A CRUSH ON HER.


SOMEDAY MAYBE
OF COURSE NANAO IS GOING TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH HER
PERHAPS
DOOM...
I HAVE A HORRIBLE PERSONALITY!!
IF HIS SISTER COACHES ME, THERE'S A CHANCE FOR ME TO GET CLOSE TO NANAO..
WHAT A HORRIBLY IMPURE REASON!!
IT'S SELFISH OF ME!


NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I WILL NEVER BECOME A GIRL LIKE HER
EVEN THOUGH I WAS DUMPED, I WON'T LET GO IT'S LIKE I'M A STALKER
SHE'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ME!!
I'M SURE THERE'S NOT A SINGLE BAD THING ABOUT HER
SHE'S BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE AND SPEAKS HER MIND CLEARLY

I HATE BEING LIKE THIS...

DEAR
IT'S EXPECTED THAT SHE WOULDN'T STICK WITH IT.
OH. SHOULD YOU BE SKIPPING MORNING PRACTICE TODAY TOO?
YEAH. LIKE I'VE BEEN THINKING, I'M GOING TO QUIT.
I'M HEADING OUT.
HUH?!
I'M SELFISH AND WEAK. I'M THE WORST.
I'M WEAK...

SKATING TO BE WITH NANAO SOMEDAY?
I'LL BE BELITTLING THE PEOPLE WHO SKATE FOR REAL. QUITTING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
BUT I DID REALLY THINK IT WAS FUN.
I REALLY DID ENJOY MYSELF.
I'M GLAD NANAO SITS IN FRONT OF ME
I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE EYE
NOW THEN, LET'S PRACTICE CONVERSING
UH, WE'LL CONTINUE FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF YESTERDAY

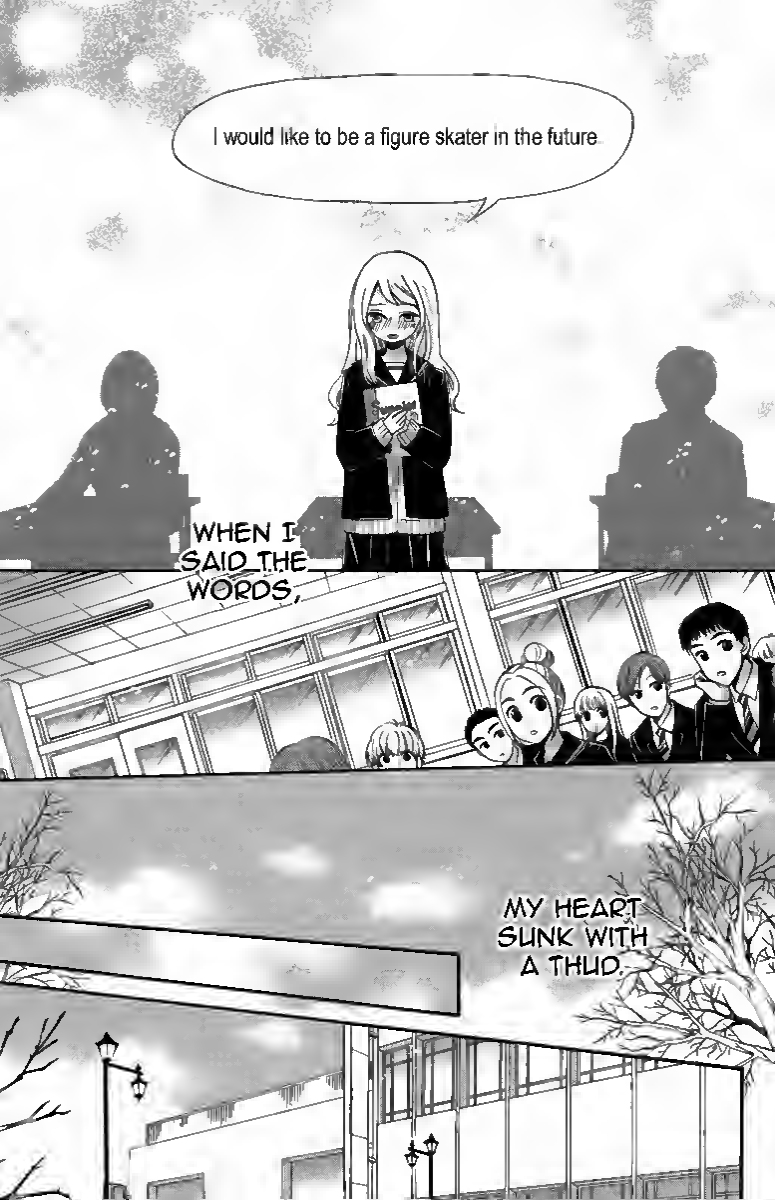
"What do you want to become in the future?"

"I would like to become a teacher."

I,
I,
I,
I
MUMBLE
I WANT TO BECOME AN AIAI
Pfft!
ROAR
Idiot.
Geez

UH...
Ah ha ha!
Idiot.
Her timing is off.
She's frozen
Just give up
I feel sorry for her
She's dug a big hole for herself
Kurusu, sorry.
I didn't mean to laugh.
Kurusu, you don't have to bother.

I would like to be a figure skater in the future.
DON'T YOU?
.....


I would like to be a figure skater in the future.
WHEN I SAID THE WORDS,
MY HEART SUNK WITH A THUD.

NANAO!
I-I skipped pr-practice yesterday.
Um...
Your sister
AHH,
WANTING TO QUIT BECAUSE OF RIGOROUS PRACTICE IS COMMON
IN THE END, WHAT YOU DECIDE IS ALL UP TO YOU.
Th-that's not it!
Training was rigorous, but it wasn't that bad on me!!

THIS IS NOT THE ICE,
BUT NOW...
FORGIVE ME
THERE WAS A PHOTO IN YOUR ROOM
YOU FLIPPED IT OVER
A PHOTO?
A PHOTO OF YOU AND KIWAKO AT THE COMPE-TITION.
YOUR SISTER SAID... SHE'S THE GIRL YOU LIKE.

IT SEEMED LIKE I'M... I'M CLINGING EVEN THOUGH YOU R-REJECTED ME
I BECAME HESITANT
EVEN IF I MAKE A FRESH START, I CAN'T BECOME A GIRL LIKE HER
THAT KIND OF THING WAS GOING AROUND AND AROUND IN MY HEAD
TH-THAT'S WHY I MISSED PRACTICE
I REALLY WAS BEING CLINGY SORRY
FORGET ABOUT IT
KIWAKO IS A FRIEND.
AND APOLOGIZE TO YOUR SISTER FOR ME
SHE'S A FUNNY WEIRDO
THERE'S NOTHING MORE OR LESS TO IT

Oh...
is that how it is...?
UNTIL VERY RECENTLY,
I SELF-DESTRUCTED.
I WASN'T POPULAR WITH GIRLS
HOWEVER,
I REALLY DON'T GET SOMEONE SAYING THAT THEY LIKE ME
SKATING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN TALKING TO GIRLS

I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SO I TALKED TO YOU...
DO YOU SKATE?
AT SCHOOL I THOUGHT, "OH! SHE'S THE GIRL WHO ALWAYS HAS HER HEAD DOWN..."
AT FIRST WHEN I SAW YOU AT THE SKATING RINK, I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE...
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE YOU, BUT... I GOT CURIOUS...
FOR INSTANCE, I WONDERED, WHY YOUR HEAD IS ALWAYS DOWN?
WHEN YOU LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD, YOU'RE—
C-

I LIFTED MY HEAD AND FACED FORWARD.
CUTE...

I'M HEADING OUT.
WHAT? NIKA ALREADY LEFT?
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR HER TO GET IN HER PRACTICE TIME EARLY IN THE MORNING
DIDN'T SHE QUIT?
WELL THEN I BETTER START WORKING FOR A RAISE
UP UNTIL NOW,
I THOUGHT
NOTHING WOULD COME OF MY LIFE.
I HAVE TO GAIN MORE STAMINA
AND I NEED MORE MUSCLES

WHEN I'M REBORN, WHAT DO I WANT TO BECOME?
IF I INTEND TO BE REBORN,
I'LL TRY HARDER TO SPEAK UP EVEN THOUGH I FEEL LIKE THE WORDS
ARE CAUGHT IN MY THROAT, I'LL CALM DOWN
AND I WON'T SHRINK AWAY.
YEAH... I KNOW I CAN DO THIS.
TUPI
THEN SURELY

SOMEDAY

I CAN BE REBORN!
That was Nika Kurusu
She only started skating 3 years ago
That was a splendid artistry-packed performance

End of Chapter 2

氷の女王
The Ice Queen
Rikachi Presents

なかがき

いろいろ調べると とっても
ふくざつなスケート界

ニカちゃんみたいなサクセスは
ちょっとないかなーと思いつつも
(大会に出るにもいろいろ段階があるので)
おいしいとこどりで
スケートの華やかなかんじで
描けたらなぁ

恋愛メインではありますが
もう1巻あるので おつきあい
いただければ幸いです♡
←では後半も どぞー♡

制作秘話

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氷の女王

The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

Kodansha Comics

BETSUFURE

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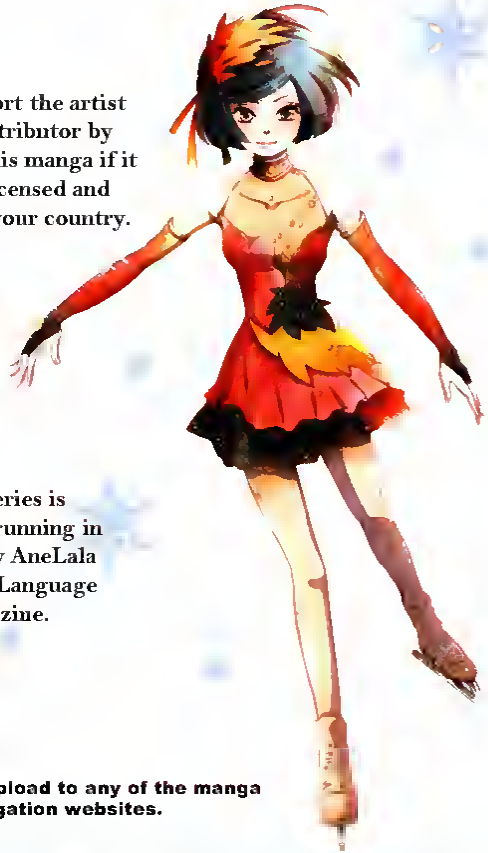

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STEP 3
Kiwako's Ordeal
Prodigy female skater Kiwako Chikura who dominated the National Championships last year and the year before
is favored to medal in the Grand Prix
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR RESULTS THIS SEASON?
THE NEXT REGIONAL COMPETITION IS COMING UP. HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU?
I'M CONFIDENT, OF COURSE
THERE IS NO COMPETITION I CAN'T WIN!
MY ONLY RIVAL IS MYSELF!

STEP 3
Kiwako's Ordeal
I'LL SWEEP THE COMPETITION.
MOTTE

I did it.
I LET MY BIG MOUTH RUN OFF AGAIN.
I SOUND LIKE A BRAGGART!
Am I out of my mind?!
SAYING THINGS LIKE "I'LL SWEEP THE COMPETITION"!!!
YOU'RE AS idiotic AS EVER
AUGH! I'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE MORE!!
MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE IS DEAD!!

"Koori no Joou" ("The Ice Queen") Volumes 1 & 2 are available for purchase in Japanese. Here are the ISBNs to search online bookstores:

Volume 1: 978-4063418965
Volume 2: 978-4063419450

If you enjoy this series, please ask your country's manga publisher to licence "Koori no Joou". If you are in the US, please make the request to Kodansha USA.

I KNOW!!
BUT I HAVE A REPUTATION, SO I JUST BLURTED OUT THE WORDS...
BECAUSE
MINATO!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A NEUROTIC PERSON.
HMPH!
YOU LOOK LIKE A BULLY
BECAUSE THE WORLD THINKS KIWAKO CHIKURA IS LIKE THIS!!!

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T ACT.
SO I FEEL COMPELLED TO SAY SOMETHING INTERESTING!
THE MEDIA GAVE RISE TO THAT IMAGE,
The Queen!
Ughhh!
"I'm always #1".
Shishot Sports
Audacious
Lower than Snow White's Evil Queen
There's no one in the world who rivals me
YOU UNDERSTAND BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RIGHT?!
I WAS BORN WITH A VILLAIN'S FACE!!
THE TRUTH IS MY HEART IS POUNDING AND I'M ANXIOUS!
IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!
GOOD LUCK!
OH! K! WE SAW YOU ON TV! YOU SOUNDED EXTREMELY CONFIDENT
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIKE THIS ..?
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD DROP THE BRAVADO AND SAY YOU'RE ANXIOUS!
Huuh

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SCARED FROM HEAD TO TOE.
OVER-CONFIDENCE AS HIGH AS THE TOKYO SKY TREE DETECTED!
IT'S LIKE A DISEASE...
You can't stop yourself...
SLUMP
MINATO, KUDOU FROM CLASS 1 IS CALLING FOR YOU.
OKAY.
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!
THAT'S BE-CAUSE HE LIKES HER
MINATO WORRIES TOO MUCH ABOUT KIWAKO, DOESN'T HE?!
HUH?

I ALREADY HAVE A DESTINED LOVE!!
OH! AND IT'S NOT SKATING! SKATING IS MY LOVER!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF BEING RASHED AS A BIG MOUTH?
UH WE HURT HER FEELINGS
YES, THERE'S A PERSON I LIKE.
WE'RE OUTTA OF TOUCH NOW.
SPORTS PLAZA
Tani Goh Ice Skate

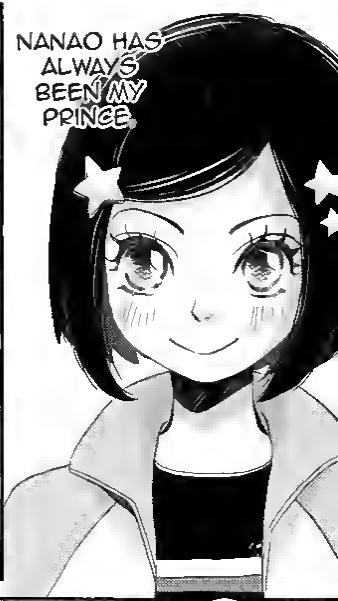
AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME, IT'S HIM IN THE FLESH!
NANAO!
HEY! HEY! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THE USUAL RINK I PRACTICE AT IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
THIS IS THE CLOSEST ALTERNATIVE RINK
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO BE PRACTICING HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE?!
IT'S A LONG COMMUTE I ONLY MADE ARRANGE-MENTS TO COME TODAY
SLUMP

HE WAS THE SMALLEST KID IN THE SKATE CLUB,
SO SMALL!
AND GLOOMY!
Silence.
AKIRA NANAO IS CURRENTLY KNOWN AS MALE FIGURE SKATING'S PRINCE, BUT
WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE KID, HE WASN'T PRINCELY AT-ALL.
HE DIDN'T STAND OUT, BUT HIS SKATING SENSE WAS GOOD
BUT HE'S GOOD AT SKATING DESPITE BEING A SHORTY
He can already do spins?
ON THE DAY OF MY FIRST COMPETITION...
I CURLED UP INTO A BALL COMPLETELY
I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT THERE EVER. I'LL FALL DOWN
I'M CALLING THE COACH OVER. WAIT HERE
It's almost your turn.
AND MY STOMACH HURTS. I'VE ALREADY QUIT.
EVERYBODY IS REALLY GOOD. NO MATTER WHAT, I'M GONNA BE IN LAST PLACE. IT'S EMBARRASSING.

IT WAS AT THAT TIME
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE POWER OF WORDS?
THE WORDS YOU SPEAK HAVE LIFE.
THAT'S WHY
YOU SHOULD SAY, "I CAN DO IT."
THE POWER IS INSIDE OF YOU
WORDS ARE ALIVE
AND TURN INTO REALITY.
UM!
HUH?

TUP
NANAO...
THAT COMPETITION, I WAS IN TOP FORM.
AND MY WINNING STREAK BEGAN!
THAT'S WHY SINCE THAT DAY,

WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MEET OFTEN. WE'RE LIKE ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI OR ROMEO AND JULIET
AFTER NANAO MOVED DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL
EVENTUALLY WE'LL BE THE FIGURE SKATING WORLD'S PRINCE AND PRINCESS
NOW, HE EVEN LOOKS LIKE A PRINCE
DAMN, HE GREW HOW TALL IS HE NOW? HE'S HOT!


NANAO HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PRINCE

OH,
KURUSU, OVER HERE.
You're such a cold guy!!!
SNICK!
HUH?
WHAT?
IT'S WAY TOO EMBARRASSING!
Ah ha ha
Imagine that!

What
!?
NANAO!
I G-GOT LOST ON THE WAY
THAT'S WHY I SAID WE SHOULD COME TOGETHER
Oh!
B-but... but I made it... right? My b-bad...
"TOGETH-ER"?
OH!
NANAO IS THE TYPE WHO TALKS WARMLY WITH THIS KIND OF GIRL?!
O-OKAY
TIME IS RUNNING OUT
WHAT? I WAS WORRIED.
WHO'S SHE?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SHE'S IN THE SAME CLASS WITH ME AT SCHOOL AND IN MY FIGURE SKATING CLUB
I'm Nika Ku-kurusu!
SHE'LL PROBABLY BECOME YOUR RIVAL
Wh-what are you talking about?! What are you talking about?!!!
Th-there's no way!!!
Geez
SHE QUALIFIED FOR THE EASTERN JAPAN DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
HUH?
RIVAL!?

WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?
IT IS BETTER NOT TO ASK...
I SHOULD GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL!
But the commute is an hour and a half!!
WHAM
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT... SO CALM DOWN
IS NOT IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
AUGH. HIS HIGH SCHOOL
I AM AN IDIOT!!!
WHY AM I SUCH AN IDIOT?!!

I FINISHED THIS TEST,
SINCE I DON'T KNOW IT'LL LIKE AN ERASER D:E
BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT ANY OF THE ANSWERS WERE!!
IS THAT HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS SCHOOL TOO?
WELL, YOU WERE BUSY WITH FIGURE SKATING...
No, I can't study.
I'm hopeless!
HOW DO YOU PASS DOING THAT, DUMBASS?!
AND THE MATTER WAS?
THE GUY SHE LIKES BROUGHT HIS GIRLFRIEND WITH HIM TO THE ICE SKATING RINK.
NO WORRIES, NO WORRIES. WHEN IT COMES TO FIGURE SKATING, YOU'RE GOOD.
BUT SHE WAS CUTE
THAT'S TRUE
HE DIDN'T CALL HER HIS GIRL-FRIEND!!
SHE'S NOT NECESSAR-ILY HIS GIRL-FRIEND!!

SHOULDN'T YOU JUST CONFESS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS?
I'm tired of hearing about it.
A FIGURE SKATING PRINCE AND PRINCESS GO TOGETHER!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!!
YEAH SHE DOES HAVE A VILLAIN'S FACE
BUT KIWAKO IS NOTHING LIKE A PRINCESS!
Like Kurumi from my Melody
ME, CONFESS? YOU DON'T HAVE THE HEART OF A MAIDEN!!
blush!
THE GUY YOU LIKE... IS IT NANAO?
UH...
You heard?
WELL...
I...

WELL,
I ALREADY KNEW.
HUH?
YOU KNEW?
YOU'RE TOO EASY TO READ
ERM.
IT'S A S-SECRET YOU HEAR?
SPORTS PLAZA
Tennis Golf Ice Skate
SLISH!

I
CAN
JUMP!
SLISH!
HEH!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN TOP FORM
MINATO!
WHAT? IS SOMETHING UP?!
NO, NOT IN PARTICULAR I WAS PASSING BY AND WONDERED IF YOU WERE PRACTICING.
YOU COME HERE OFTEN, DON'T YOU? OH—
Acquaintance
MRS. TAMA AT THE RECEPTION DESK?!
YOU USED TO COME HERE UP UNTIL THE END OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHY DID YOU QUIT?
YOU WERE GOOD

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
WELL...
I DIDN'T LIKE SKATING VERY MUCH
YOU ALWAYS CAME TO SEE ME IN COMPETITIONS.
THAT'S BECAUSE I LIKE WATCHING.
BUT I THOUGHT IF YOU LIKE WATCHING, THEN YOU SHOULD LIKE DOING TOO.
NOPE.
DOING IT IS REALITY AND WATCHING IS WATCHING.

I HAVE MEMORIES OF HEARING HE WAS QUITE TALENTED
WHAT A WASTE
OWW
YOU OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THAT
PITCH
OW!
COME TO THINK OF IT, ISN'T THE NEXT COMPETITION IN CANADA? GOOD LUCK!
NO, NO, BEFORE THAT, I SKATE IN EASTERN JAPAN
OH!
HUH?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
Aren't those the preliminaries?! Aren't you seeded?! You don't have to go!!
WELL
I WANT TO GAIN CONFIDENCE FROM THIS!!

LISTEN, I WANT THE MOMENTUM FROM A WIN...
IF I DON'T GO, I'LL FEEL UNDER PRESSURE...
IT REALLY IS TRUE. YOU ONLY APPEAR STRONG FROM THE OUTSIDE.
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE CHEERING FOR NANAO
HUH?
DON'T WORRY. SINCE IT'S YOU, YOU'LL WIN!
IT'S A LOCK!

MINATO...
I'LL LISTEN TO SOME MUSIC TO PUMP MYSELF UP
YEAH.
THAT'S TRUE! BECAUSE I'M A PRODIGY!! IT'S INEVITABLE!
YOU PRESSURE YOURSELF TALKING LIKE THAT.
UGH...
IS THAT THE MUSIC YOU'RE GOING TO SKATE TO?

LET ME HEAR
OH, I LISTEN TO THIS TO GET A CLEARER IMAGE OF ME SKATING.
I'VE BEEN TOLD MY SKATING ISN'T EXPRESSIVE ENOUGH
TOO CLOSE
BA-DUMP
UH, ISN'T THIS METAL?!
WON'T YOU FEEL LIKE HEAD-BANGING ON THE ICE?!
WHIP WHIP WHIP
Get back!
WELL~ I'M OPENING A NEW FRONTIER!
THAT'S NOT A FRONTIER TO OPEN!!
AT THE MOST EXTREME, LISTEN TO HIP-HOP
LET ME HEAR THE MUSIC FIRST AFTER YOU SELECT IT
BEING EXPRESSIVE IS DIFFICULT
IF ONLY SCORES WERE BASED ON NOTHING BUT TECHNICAL ABILITY...
YEAH, OKAY
I'M ALWAYS MAKING YOU WORRY
YOU'VE LIKE A BKANO-MA.
EXPRES-SION..

IF YOU NEED SEX APPEAL,
THEN HOW ABOUT I TURN YOU INTO A WOMAN?
THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT! I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SEX APPEAL! I'M TALKING ABOUT EXPRESSION!!
TCH!
YOU KEEP RUNNING OFF AT THE MOUTH, SO DO YOUR UTMOST.
I'D PUSH MYSELF EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO!
I WONDER IF I SHOULD CONFESS TO NANAO IF I WIN THE GOLD PRIX
I'M ALWAYS ANXIOUSLY WORRYING,
BUT WHEN I PRACTICE LIKE THIS EVERY DAY,

AND THE FINISHING TOUCH IS THE MAGICAL PHRASE,
I CAN DO IT!
GRADUALLY I FILL AND THEN OVERFLOW WITH CONFIDENCE.
SKATE RINK
The Eastern Japan Regional Competition--
UGH!

No, no, I won't let anyone see me act this pathetic. I have to win!!
Or rather, of course I'll win
Squee! It's Ki!
Good luck!
FOR SOME REASON I'VE GOTTEN NERVOUS. MY STOMACH HURTS...
THIS KIND OF COMPETI-TION
IS MERELY TO ADJUST THE RANKINGS
DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
Owww, Owww
OH...
Next up is Nika Kurusu.
THAT GIRL...
I'LL TAKE A LOOK

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT DOING ANY DIFFICULT JUMPS,
HMM... WHAT'S THIS?
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER...
OH...?

SHE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN ME.
SHE'S UNDENIABLY
SHE HAS A CHARMINGLY AIRY FEEL ABOUT HER, AND
FEMININE
swip!
.....
Hmm

HOORAY!!
I HEARD THAT GIRL STARTED SKATING LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO
WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING!
BUT SHE ONLY DID SIMPLE JUMPS
WASN'T THAT PRETTY?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FREE SKATE
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HER AT THE NEXT COMPETITION
KIWA...
HEY... KI...
KIWAKO!!
Gasp!
HOORAY!!
WOMEN'S SINGLES SP
NAME
TSS
TES
PCS
KURUSU NIKA

NERVOUS?
OH... YEAH, I'M FINE
I'M PROBABLY JUST NERVOUS BECAUSE MY TURN IS COMING UP SOON.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SKFF
I GOTTA GO, OKAY...
KIWA...
THERE ARE LOTS OF AMAZING SKATERS. THEY'RE AT EVERY COMPETITION!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

I'LL BE LIKE I ALWAYS AM.
KIWAKO CALM DOWN
THIS IS NOTHING
I CAME TO SEE HER!
THERE SHE IS. IT'S KI!
SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO PARTICIPATE, BUT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HER
SHE'LL PROBABLY BECOME YOUR RIVAL.
AFTER ALL, AREN'T I THE WORLD-RENOWNED KIWAKO CHIKURA?
RIVAL? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

I'LL SWEEP THE COMPETI-TION!
I SAID THOSE WORDS,
MOTTE
NOBODY IS FASTER!!!
NOBODY JUMPS HIGHER!!
I HAVE TO SHOW EVERYONE!!
"IT'S THE POWER OF WORDS. THEY HAVE THE POWER TO BE REALITY."
SO THOSE WORDS ARE REALITY TO ME!!!
DID THAT GIRL ALSO
HEAR THE SAME THING FROM NANAO--?

SLIP!
OH!
Oh!

NATURALLY SHE'S IN SECOND PLACE BUT IT'S BECAUSE IT'S A LOW-RANKED COMPETITION
WELL, KIWAKO CHIKURA WAS IN POOR FORM, WASN'T SHE?
SHE SEEMED A BIT OUT OF SORTS
KI TOOK A HORRIBLE SPILL, DIDN'T SHE?
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'LL SHAKE OFF THIS COMPETITION
I WONDER, WILL SHE BE OKAY FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE GRAND PRIX AFTER THIS TUMBLE...
KIWAKO, THE MEDIA ARE COMING TO DO AN INTERVIEW
SHOULD I TURN THEM AWAY?
UH...
I'LL BE FINE

KIWAKO.
IN THE END, MY SCORE WASN'T ALL THAT BAD..
BE YOUR USUAL SELF!
YOU'RE FINE. GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
THIS MISTAKE WASN'T A BIG DEAL!
NANAO!!
UH...
UM, I...
I...

KIWA
BYE! I'VE GOT AN INTERVIEW TO GO TO!
Skaters entrance
RE...
RE~~ REALLY MESSED UP!
IT WAS A THOUGHT-LESS MISTAKE!
I DION'T TIE MY HAIR PROPERLY AND GOT DISTRACTED!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE CUT MY HAIR!
WELL! NEXT TIME I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE!
I'M FINE. EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
I'M A PRODIGY.
I'M STRONG.
mutter mutter

STRONG...
KIWAKO!
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME? DO YOU WANT TO FOLLOW ME INTO THE RESTROOM?
THAT'S THE MEN'S REST-ROOM!
I...
AH... HAHA, I'M... SUCH A WRECK, AREN'T I?
KIWA...
NO. IT'S A LIE.

End of Chapter 3

リカチ

The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

氷の女王

1

Kodansha Comics

BETSUFURE

Crimson Flower Translations

Translation & English Adaptation: Kuroneko003

Translation QC: Jade

Cleaning & Redrawing: Kuroneko003, Silver Lunar, & Ichigo Stars

Typesetting & Final Image Editing: Kuroneko003

Proofreading and QC: Jade & Zenny

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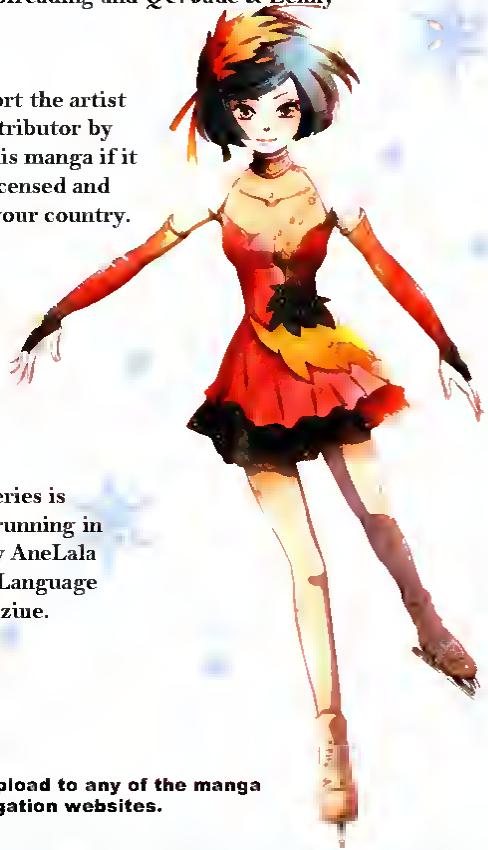

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STEP 4
Kiwako's
Soul Mate

KIWAKO... SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM ICE SKATING AND THE SPOT-LIGHT?
...OKAY.
Cancel your overseas trips...
and stay in Japan for now.
I WONDER
HOW I USED TO SKATE
Sports
The Ice Queen Is in a Slump
Unex
How will she perform in the Grand Prix?
Not competing
Kiwako Chikura
...ost footing?!
The Ice Queen
Kiwako Chikura (16)
Injury Rumors

STEP 4

Kiwako's Soul Mate

BA
M
KIWAKO... WHAT'S WITH THE DISGUISE?
*hmm!
HMM? WHO IS THIS KIWAKO?
THERE'S NO ONE HERE OF INTEREST I'M JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL
PAY NO ATTENTION TO ME
We've got an idiot here...
Uh... are you trying to pretend that you're a stranger?
YOINK!
AUGH!

I THOUGHT HER EYES WOULD BE SWOLLEN
THEY'RE NORMAL...
What?
You're kidding! THEY AREN'T SWOLLEN?
NO, DESPITE HOW I LOOK, I DID CRY!
I TRIED CRYING MY EYES OUT!
Aaaa!
Ooooo!
Why meeeee?!
Don't I look like the heroine from a tragedy?!
OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
SO THEN EVIDENCE OF MY ATTEMPT TO LOOK LIKE I WAS IN A DRAMA..
DISAP-PEARED.
.....

IT FELT LIKE THAT GIRL'S EXISTENCE SUCKED UP ALL OF NANAO'S MAGIC
YEAH...
WELL,
I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF THE FALL AT THAT COMPETITION
EVERYONE HAS A SLUMP AT SOME POINT OR RATHER, YOU NOT HAVING A SLUMP UNTIL NOW IS WEIRD
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS WHAT AT THAT MOMENT.
IN THE END I WAS LEFT HELPLESS.
IF I CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS...
I'M SORRY. I'M FINE.
I GOTTA GO.
THE WORDS I WANTED TO SAY AND QUESTIONS I WANTED TO ASK WENT UNSAID.

SOMEONE LIKE ME NOT BEING ABLE TO ICE SKATE
IF SOMETHING DOESN'T CHANGE, I'LL BE IN A SLUMP FOREVER.
HERK
JERK
I THINK THIS IS HOW TO JUMP
HMM, IF SHE CAN STILL RUN HER MOUTH THIS MUCH, SHE'S FINE.
I'LL JUST BE AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?!
NO, NO, HOW COULD I BE FINE? SHOULDN'T I BE UPSET?
Or pissed-off or something?
Calm down
YOU'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT "SKATE, SKATE" YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK AND DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT ONCE IN A WHILE.
You have no other choice at a time like this.
THAT'S IT!!

Watching a movie
The movies
Shopping
Hanging out after-school
Sign: Comic
まんが
OKAY! LIFE OUTSIDE OF SKATING!!
Karaoke
I'M GONNA SING THE SCHOOL ANTHEM!
THE SCHOOL ANTHEM?!
SHE SAID SHE'S NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE
SHOULD SHE SERIOUSLY BE HAVING THIS MUCH FUN?
SERIOUSLY? WHAT A SPOILED PRINCESS
A get together
WHAT?
IT ALWAYS FEELS THE SAME BEING WITH MINATO BUT THIS TIME
BUT SOMETHING FEELS OFF
I'M HAVING FUN,
Haaa...
SHE TOOK CARE OF IT!
PAT
Yikes!
I-I'm not her!
OH, IS THAT KI?

KIWAKO,
I WONDER HOW LONG KIWAKO'S GOING TO BE IN A SLUMP?
SHE STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO
.....
I WONDER IF SHE'LL STILL BE IN A SLUMP AT THE TOURNAMENT.
NANAO IS RETURNING HOME FROM AN OVERSEAS TOURNAMENT. HE ASKED IF YOU WANT TO HANG OUT ON SUNDAY
REALLY ?!
A DATE ?!
BUT YOU HAVE TO PUT CONFESSING TO HIM OUT OF YOUR MIND.
HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING RIGHT NOW
Okay, okay.
I can't wait!

……
WHAM

N-NIKA KURUSU!!
UH, YES!
TH-THANKS FOR INVITING ME TODAY
UM, UH, YOU'RE KURUSU, RIGHT?
Hahaha... What the heck is this?
HUH? WELL, I THOUGHT IT'D BE GREAT FOR KIWAKO
I'M TELLING YOU IT'S NOT!
HEY! WHY'D YOU BRING A GIRL ALONG WITHOUT TELLING ME?!
WAIT!
WAIT!
HAHAHA, YEAH, MIGHT AS WELL, RIGHT?!
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY OURSELVES
AUGH! CAN I ENJOY MYSELF?!!

AMUSEMENT
SEGA
Aren't you going to take off your hat?
No, I'm almost done eating these
KDS
UH.. SOME-HOW...
I'M HAVING A GOOD TIME
What's with this calmness...?
Oh! M-Ms. Ki...wako...

KIWAKO
HERE.
AS THANKS FOR INVITING ME...
Uh... Um, Kiwako...
SHE'S A CUTE ONE, ISN'T SHE?
HER FEMININE POWER IS HIGH.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE, SO YOU CAN CALL ME JUST "KIWAKO".
HUH?! UH, THANKS
I, ON THE OTHER HAND
OH NO, I HAVE TO GO!!
I GUESS I'LL WEAR THIS!!
Oh!
Yes.
Yes.
I-I'M VERY SHY..
SO IF I ACT WEIRD, I'M SORRY...
SHE SEEMS LIKE A NICE GIRL...
WILL SHE KEEP GETTING BETTER AT SKATING TOO?
KINDA LIKE
THIS IS

FLUTTER
UNTIL YESTERDAY, IT WAS MY QUEEN, BUT
FROM NOW ON, IT SHALL BE SNOW WHITE!
MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE STRONGEST AND FAIREST
FIGURE SKATER OF THEM ALL?
SMASH!
YOU DAMNED MIRROR!
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I'LL USE THIS POISONED APPLE!!
WITH IT, THE THRONE AND THE PRINCE'S HEART SHALL BE MINE!
WANTE

Oh!
Ho!
Ho!
Ho!
Ho!
WHAT THE HELL?!! I FIT THE ROLE OF THIS VILLAIN TOO WELL!!!
AT LEAST LET ME BE THE LITTLE MERMAID...
I have to find a better example... Aren't there any?
MUMBLE MUMBLE
NO... THE LITTLE MERMAID TURNED INTO SEA FOAM AND DISAPPEARED.
KIWAKO... ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
Sign: Skating Rink
スケートリンク
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
HEY!
THERE'S AN ICE RINK IN THAT SMALL WINTER SEASON AREA OVER THERE.

HMM. THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE HERE
It... isn't very popular, is it?
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES TO DO HERE
OR RATHER, ARE THEY ACTUALLY SKATING?!
I DON'T WANT TO WEAR RENTAL SKATES. THEY USUALLY AREN'T WELL MAINTAINED
SO TRUE!
I-I want to skate a little...
OH, THEN LET'S SKATE TOGETHER, KURUSU!
JUST US TWO!
HUH?

SO THEN YOU TWO HANG OUT HERE,
AND WE'LL GO GET PEOPLE SKATING
MINATO HAD A WEIRD AIR ABOUT HIM...
SHALL WE GO SIT OVER THERE?
OH... SURE.

IT BOTHERS ME A LOT,
...
Huh?
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
Um... uh, well ... um.
BUT KIWAKO'S NEVER BEEN DOWN LIKE THIS. I'M STEPPING ASIDE JUST FOR NOW,
BECAUSE I WANT HER TO GET BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF
REGARDLESS THOUGH, NANAO HAS NO INTEREST IN LOVE AS OF NOW
I don't think I can do anything until something happens.
.....

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A WHOLE LOT OF FUN
Don't hold her hand, stupid Minato
I have hat hair
GUHYE
DOES THAT BOTHER YOU?
HUH? DOES WHAT?
KIWAKO, WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO SKATE?
Huh?!
OH...? THERE'S NO WAY HE LIKES THAT GIRL... RIGHT?

MINATO TOLD ME.
THAT GUY..
YOU WERE ALWAYS POSITIVE, SAYING "I CAN DO IT", "I WILL DO IT"
A LITTLE MISTAKE LIKE THAT IS NOT LIKE YOU, KIWAKO
I THOUGHT
TH- THAT'S
JUST..
YOU SHOULD SAY "I CAN DO IT"
USING THE WORD POWER TRICK NANAO TOLD ME ABOUT.
UM.. I'M.. ACTUALLY A TIMID PERSON.

BUT WHEN SHE'S ON THE ICE, SHE CHANGES.
SAYS THAT ABOUT HERSELF.
YOU KNOW, KURUSU
HUH?
OH, SHE FELL
It looks like she's fine
.....
SHE'S GETTING STRONG
SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO BE LIKE YOU

NANAO.. DO YOU LIKE KURUSU?
OH.. CRAP, I SAID IT
MY SLUMP IS YOUR FAULT, YOU STUPID, STUPID, IDIOT!
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO BY TALKING ABOUT ANOTHER GIRL?
DIDN'T YOU COME TO COMFORT ME?
REALLY?
NOT YET
HUH?
WELL,
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
OH WELL.
NOT YET.
OH.

SO IT IS MY DESTINY TO TURN INTO SEA FOAM AND DISAPPEAR.
I THOUGHT SO.
I SEE. I SEE.
IT'S FRUS-TRATING...
DO YOU WANT TO SKATE?
HUH?!
YOU'RE STARING AT THE RINK.
OH...
YEAH.
FOR SOME REASON, I REALLY WANT TO.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN GOOD
WHEN YOU COULDN'T BRING YOURSELF TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY, I GOT WORRIED.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR USUAL COOL SELF
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GIRL, KIWAKO,
TO WORRY ABOUT ME THAT MUCH.
WHEN IT COMES TO SKATING, I CONSIDER YOU A COMRADE AND A RIVAL
AH,
I SEE . A RIVAL
Ha ha ha..
HEH.
YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SURPASS MY GENIUS BEFORE YOU CAN TRY TO RIVAL ME!!

PFFT!
YOU REALLY ARE FUNNY, KIWAKO
Ha! Ha! Ha!
HOW WAS THAT?!
I'M THE KIND OF GIRL WHO CAN MAKE NANAO LAUGH LIKE THAT.
IT'S A COMPETITION TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
I'M SURE
SO YOU CAN PULL THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE OUT OF NOWHERE
I'M THE ONLY ONE.
IDIOT.

SHAKE
SHAKE
DID YOU BY CHANCE TELL NANAO?
I CAME TO AN UNDER-STANDING
NO MATTER HOW AMAZING I TRIED TO BE, I COULDN'T REACH HIS HEART.
I GOT PRO-MOTED FROM BEING JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL TO HIS ETERNAL RIVAL.
FORGET ABOUT IT.
NANAO STILL DOESN'T KNOW...?
HUH?

COME ON!
DO YOU WANNA GO TO THE ICE SKATING RINK?!
GRAB!
Huh?
……
Huhhhh——……
SPORTS PLAZA
SPORTS PLAZA
Tenth Grade Ice Skating

NOBODY'S HERE
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S CLOSING TIME!
We're too late!!
IF YOU'RE OUT FOR 15 MINUTES, IT'S OKAY
I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU, KI
YOU HAVE A PAIR OF SPARE SKATES HERE, RIGHT?
I DO, BUT...
THEN SKATE.

COME HERE.
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING FOREVER.
...What are you doing?
Getting ready.
WHY ARE YOU ARBITRARILY...
I'M GOING TO DISPEL YOUR PARALYZING FEAR AND ANXIETY.
UH,

EVEN THOUGH YOU USED TO SKATE
DON'T YOU ONLY WATCH?!
SHUT UP!
COME ON, LIKE YOU'RE PERFORM-ING!
RELAX!
YEP, THAT'S WHAT I DO. I'M AN ORDINARY GUY TOGETHER WITH A WORLD-CLASS FIGURE SKATER.
ARE YOU GONNA KEEP DOING THIS?!
SKATE FASTER LIKE USUAL!
SHAA
NO BACK TALK!

OF COURSE I CAN JUMP!!
MMM
I
CAN I JUMP?
AND YOU'RE NOT JUMPING BECAUSE YOU CAN'T JUMP!
YEAH, I'M WATCHING YOU!!
WATCH ME!!
SLUSH!
BECAUSE I'VE JUMPED COUNTLESS TIMES!

I CAN
SCHLICK!
JUMP!!
PER-FECT.

IT FEELS LIKE I WAS NEVER IN A SLUMP!
MY BODY MOVES!!
MINA...
HUH...?

YOU
KINDA MADE ME
WANT TO TEASE YOU.
WAIT!

YOU SHOULD BE SAYING SOMETHING A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT AFTER DOING SOMETHING THAT CRAZY!
YOU WANTED TO TEASE ME? WHAT THE HECK?!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHOA!
WE'RE SLIDING!
SAY SOMETHING! HEY!
KIWAKO CHIKURA, WHO BECAME THE WORLD'S TOP ICE QUEEN
WILL EVENTU-ALLY

WORD POWER.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN
THAT THE VOICE I HEARD
BACK THEN WAS...?
DON'T WORRY, KIWAKO
EVERY-THING'S OKAY
TEAM MEMBER WAITING ROOM
ARENA1F
EN

WORLD FAMOUS KIWAKO

HURRAH...
Good Luck
At last our final skater, Kiwako Chikura. What kind of performance will she give?
After putting in a wonderful short program yesterday, it seems like she's back in top form
I wonder what today's free skate competition will show us.
KIWAKO
CALM DOWN.
I CAN DO THIS.
I CAN JUMP.

END OF "THE ICE QUEEN" CHAPTER 4

リカチ

The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

氷の女王

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Kodansha Comics

BETSUFURE

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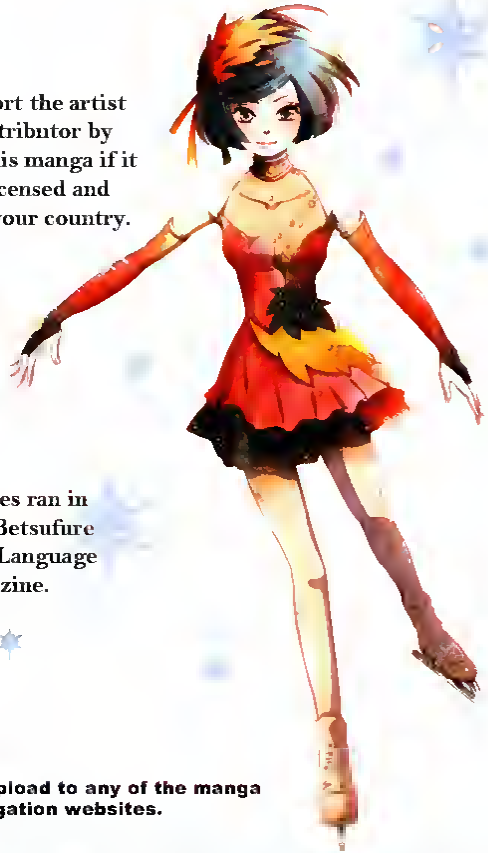

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